AN

ADDRESS

DELIVERED ON

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 7th, 1850,

AT THE

CONSECRATION

OF THE

RIVER-SIDE CEMETERY,

IN

Fairhaven, Mass.,

BY

THOMAS DAWES,
Minister and Pastor of Washington Street Church, in Fairhaven, Mass.

WITH THE BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION,

AND AN APPENDIX.

NEW BEDFORD:
PRESS OF BENJAMIN LINDSEY.
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My Friends:

While the Sabbath sun diffuses a partial glory, we feel that it is good for us to be in such a place as this. A solemn, but friendly intent collects our congregation: the occasion not only enlists our sympathies, it likewise calls, and calls earliest for our *gratitude.*

We come to devote this broad field, with "all the trees that are in the field and that are in the borders round about" it, to the affecting uses for which it has been given. In our haste to gain possession of the burying-place, in our eagerness to make it sure,—must the origin of our title to it be thanklessly forgotten? While we congratulate one another on our new ability to provide so amply, and in a manner so satisfactory to our fondest recollections,—for the repose of the *Dead*,—let us remember our indebtment to the *Living*. Let honor be shown to whomsoever

honor is due. And these services would be ill performed without reference to the liberality that made them possible. The speaker would poorly discharge his office here, who passed in silence that PRINCELY MUNIFICENCE which *provided the gift* we are now consecrating, or that CHRISTIAN HUMANITY which determined the *purport of its consecration.*

Examine the goodliness of the gift and its appropriateness to become the place of Graves.

It is sufficiently remote from the centre of traffic to ensure the tranquillity belonging to the couch of worn and wearied out mortality; yet is not so far removed from our own abodes as to prevent it from being

"A favorite boundary to lengthened walks."

The high-way that skirts its eastern border opens an easy access, while the extent of the enclosure itself allows that every monument be shielded from unwelcome publicity. Nature herself gave to the western portion an undulating surface, which has been admirably regulated by human skill: the hill has received a gentler slope, while the valley has kept its gradual descent to the river's margin. The eye is not pained by the artist's finical usurpations. We have no unseemly roughness to deplore, neither any obtrusive smoothness to be ashamed of. Nature has been *improved*, but not *dethroned*, much less exiled from her realm: and she has kindly received into her fostering arms that multitude of trees, and shrubs and flowering plants, that were once withheld; but which

we now behold so vigorously flourishing. The prolific mother accepts the aid of her adorer: she benignly furthers man's attempt to lift a shade of living green over his sleeper's rest.

Nor will you fail to note another, for it is the prominent feature in the landscape.

You have heard from the Committee that we are to call our Burying Place "THE RIVER-SIDE CEMETERY;" and the near Acushnet testifies to the aptness of the title. Yonder craggy Rock, that juts out into the stream, marks the land's western limit, and is a conspicuous object when seen from the quiet village below, from the bustling city opposite, or from the bridge that unites them both. That Rock seems to anchor these grounds firmly and safely to their moorings by the flowing waters: THIS an emblem of the *life* which glides so rapidly; while THAT is a token of the *Hope* which abides so sure;—the hope whose very fixedness makes melody out of the movement and quickness of man's days. That Rock stands as a fitting monument of the place where our dead repose. It will remind us *landsmen* of the inevitableness of the day when we must lie down in the dust, while at the same time it guards securely the shore where we shall rest:—and it will have a voice too, for *them* who go down to the sea in ships, whensoever they shall spread their sails to leave our home, or when, through the mercy of Providence, they shall return to gladden us again.

But we must not lose ourselves in the beauty of

the prospect, and neglect the more touching and solemn object of our assembling.

Our purposes awaken the tenderest feelings and need no aid from speech. We are not celebrating the anniversary of some famous battle, on whose success or failure important events have depended. We do not gather to fix our thought on the formation of government, the majesty of civil law, or the magnanimity of legislators. Were these our themes the task before us might be a more ambitious one, and furnish greater space for elaborate rhetoric.

We rise to a broader, though it be a simpler purpose. The topics that engage us belong not merely to one favored nation; but to the large family of man: we have now and here to do with that in which the interests of the whole race perfectly coincide and are identical.

We would save this field from disreputable intrusion. We would "make it sure for a possession of a burying place." We would erect defences about it and consecrate it forever TO THE DEAD.

When we are true to this purpose we are not ashamed to pause in our attempt to realize it—to pause that we may reflect. We do not scruple to call ourselves to account. After the strictest scrutiny of our hearts we do not feel self-condemned nor charge ourselves with irrational yielding to any sickly sensibility.

We know that the senseless clay can neither be harmed or helped by any respect of ours:—that,

whether we will, or no—the earthly tenement must crumble after its loved and loving occupant has left it; and that nothing we can do will alter the irreversible decree, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou, and all that are thine, return."

This *we know*; the wisest teacher can tell us nothing NEW about it. Nevertheless, we hold that a good, a wise and fraternal purpose brings us together this Lord's Day evening. We want no ingenious argument to prove the rectitude of the desire to have our relatives' remains honored, and laid up in a safe and quiet repose. We are not alone, nor peculiar in this sentiment; neither is it a sentiment that civilization has originated, or that Christianity ignores and deprecates. Fellow mortals who lived and died in the remotest ages of the Past; nations, who knew nothing of modern refinements shared it with us. The earth teems with evidences of human attempts to realize this desire; and the tombs which former generations honored; the burial-mounds which the reverence of antiquity guarded from desecration, are oftentimes the only Records that we at this day have of the men who built them. The tumuli which bereaved affection, zealous in its own generous impulse, erected, have sometimes saved from oblivion the memory of nations.

And thereby are we furnished with another of the ten times ten thousand instances, where the magnanimity which seeketh not its own welfare exclusively, is most inevitably rewarded: in blessing others it receives an unexpected benediction. That love

which, when it excavated the sepulchre or planned the necropolis, so reverently sought protection for the ashes of its object—established on abiding foundations its own best memorial likewise. The tomb never could be built among a people who are ignorant of sentiments and feelings which ennoble human hearts. It is the creation of tender affection, of public gratefulness, of holy respect for departed worth, distinguished ability and exalted goodness.

Thus will it be with us, my friends. We cannot escape the operation of the Righteous Father's law; the law His unerring beneficence enacted at the beginning.

When we yield to the sentiments which our religion smiles on and sanctifies, we always receive more than we ourselves bestow. We cannot make the *Dead* our *Debtors:* we cannot do for them more or better than they shall do, and are forever doing for us all: we cannot bless *them* as *they* shall *bless us*: we cannot, if we would, confer on *them* the ineffable favors which through their instrumentality, we shall here receive.

I say the favors which we shall here receive. The expression is not hasty;—the terms of it have been weighed, and I am persuaded that they will commend themselves to your deliberate judgment.

The field which we are consecrating will quickly be sown with graves; even now the preparation for burial has begun,* and whenever the first seed is

* The tomb of Capt. Atkins Adams was commenced a short time previous to the consecration of the grounds. The chaste and commendable monument

dropped into the furrow made ready for it here, then shall true hearted men know, and knowing shall confess, that this is hallowed ground. No words, neither any solemn form of ours can so effectually gain for this place the Reverential regard of the living, as will the coming into it of the sainted dead.

In the presence of the tomb itself, what need is there of ceremonies. The silence of them who have become immortal is more eloquent than words. The man who feels no secret calm, no heavenly influence to spring from neighborhood with them who have entered "that still region whither all are bound," can never have a spot on earth made consecrate to him.

Let us believe that there are very few such men; they belong to a more barbarous condition than our own.

We acknowledge the sacredness of this Retreat. We welcome its sanctifying influences. We shall not blush to be found frequenting its paths in the search for WISDOM,—for SOLACE and the *renewal* of our HOPEFUL FAITH.

This burial ground shall effectually help us to apply our hearts unto wisdom.

A visible tranquillity shall pervade the enclosure: a quiet that will be felt to be appropriate; a quiet that

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of freestone that has since been placed upon it bears the inscription, "First Monument erected in River-Side Cemetery."

Mary E. Delano, daughter of Mr. Eben Delano, aged 15 years, was buried in River-Side Cemetery, August 6, 1850. She was called suddenly in her maiden beauty, and was *worthy* to be the *earliest tenant* of the sacred place.

shall be broken only by the bird, which has found a sure asylum here, and whose chirping shall recall the Redeemer's lesson of a Parental Providence; or, perhaps, the breeze, moving the fresh, or withered foliage shall notify us of the stillness. This will be a spot redeemed from the world's tumult, and secluded from its cavils and its strife. Contention will be hushed in a precinct so verdant, so shaded and dedicated to silence and repose. With the Poet we may here sometimes feel

> "That 'tis no momentary happiness
> To have *one* enclosure where the voice that speaks
> In envy or detraction is not heard;
> Which malice may not enter; where the traces
> Of evil inclinations are unknown;
> Where love and pity tenderly unite
> With resignation; and no jarring tone
> Intrudes the peaceful concert to disturb
> Of amity and gratitude."

The holy seclusion itself, then, will have its welcome influence, and this shall prepare us to benefit from the meditation to which it invites. Breathing such an atmosphere we shall listen with more docile temper to the admonition sculptured on the stone; we shall be induced to write upon more willing hearts the lesson of the grave.

But furthermore: there will be *solace* for us here. The mourners will find their melancholy satisfaction in enhancing the beauty of these grounds. They will relieve their troubled hearts by rearing affectionate memorials of their love, and find peculiar comfort

in their attempts to adorn the bed where friends and relatives repose. That pious office will have its own reward; they who are faithful to the dead shall find the storm of grief which bereavement first occasioned, soothed into a holier calm.

"A grave," said Wordsworth, "is a tranquilizing object; resignation in course of time springs up from it as naturally as the wild flowers, besprinkling the turf with which it may be covered, or gathering round the monument by which it is defended."

The funeral procession shall, in sadness, bear its precious burden from the homes of the living; and in equal sadness here shall set that burden down. The survivors follow the departed to the tomb; they pause at the threshold of it. The living and the dead can no longer be fellow travellers; the roads are divided then: at that precise point the separation is peculiarly evident, for the members of the halting train become thoroughly conscious that the dear one whom they carry is more privileged than they. The dead have rights here which the living have not. The dead have passed on for the longer journey; they have entered in beyond the veil, into that realm whence no traveller need return, and whither none that breathe this mortal air can follow them, save in thought.

As the empty tabernacle is laid down for its solemn rest, a murmur seems to interpret the silence and to repeat the message of God's holiest son—"Weep not for me, but for yourselves rather." Henceforward the ground is consecrated; it appears as a land bor-

dering upon eternal peace ; a limit over which earthly cares and changes cannot pass, for it partakes of that placid harmony into which the departed pilgrim has already entered. Temporal vicissitudes shall never interfere with the condition of the grave's inmates, or change their affection towards us. They have truly reached their home ; we gain a new confidence in the lastingness of their sympathy :—through whatsoever changes they may pass in that unseen world we feel convinced of their unalterable love ; however much living mortals may grieve and embitter our friendship, with the tenants *here* our intercourse shall be worthy of celestial natures. The corruptible has put on incorruption, and mortality is swallowed up in life eternal.

Oh! blessed Hope, which is possible for the man who has heard of the Saviour and has believed in the resurrection. Hope, unutterably precious as we remember the frailness of earthly treasures and stand among the tombs.

In a place like this, and in view of a purpose like ours, a heathen or an infidel could find little room for *Hope*.

> "Highest things must be mysterious,
> Beyond the wisdom of the wise;
> But the earnest soul and serious
> Where it may not reach, RELIES."

Behold, the day even when devoted to the highest aim and sanctified by prayer, will not tarry at our bidding. The sun verges to the western hill-top and

no man among us can stay its chariot wheels; neither have we power to retain the dearest spirit when the order has been given it to depart. In our frailness and mutual dependence, the prospect which this field will soon present, (all paved with monumental tablets and lifted into hillocks of every length,) would be a prospect full of fear and gloom to any but the christian. To the christian, however, the *time*, the *place*, the object of our gathering are replete with hallowing associations and suggestive of the most consolitory thoughts. He feels that it is blessedly appropriate to assemble at an hour like this, while the day of the Lord's resurrection lingers, to sanctify the resting place of them whose earthly labors are over. In the splendor of this Sabbath evening the believer finds an emblem of the glory which surrounds the disciple's death bed; and the softened beauty of this twilight is to him but a welcome token of the influence which flows from the good man's memory. The voice of the Lord has spoken it, and we have heard it declare:

"I have come that ye might *have life*. The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Cheered by the faith these words express, we set apart this field which our brother has generously given; we devote it, henceforward, to the solemn purpose which the donor has chosen and directed. We ensure for it a respectful guardianship, and consecrate it to christian burial.

Is the man here, who is so insensible to virtuous emotions that he will do, or countenance aught to make the declaration vain? Nay, rather, is the man to be found who will *not* exert himself, and do his full part to make the promise a reality?

I will repeat it, then: We ensure for this ground respectful guardianship, and consecrate it to christian burial.

Here shall be brought the friends whose departure the wise disposer of events shall call us to deplore. They of our households who wear the tenderest names, (yes—some now wear them,) brother and sister, husband and wife, son and daughter, father and mother, the venerable sage; the mature, robust youth; the maiden also, and the little, helpless child; these, and such as these, shall all and each find here a guarded couch for their final slumbers. Here shall they rest securely till the trumpet soundeth. May the turf lie gently on them.

Here shall rise the monument, with its apt inscription, to mark the honored bed, and appeal to our *hearts* rather than to our *eyes;* but able to awaken in the stranger likewise, some friendly interest in them whose memory it reverently recalls, and to point even the forgetful boy to the Hope common to us all.

And here will we come ourselves, as sincere mourners, to gather up the wisdom, the comfort and the inspiring promise of the place. Or, perchance by the mourners, we shall be borne here, to be united with the beloved company who have gone before us; gone *only* A LITTLE WHILE.

And when our summons comes may we fear no evil *then;* but recognize with filial resignation and love the *Father's* endearing voice, and obey him with the song of trustfulness making music in our heart:

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in *green pastures,* he leadeth me beside the *still waters.*"

RIVER-SIDE CEMETERY

BY-LAWS.

CHAPTER I.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of Sixteen Trustees, a Treasurer and Clerk, and such other officers as may be found necessary.

SEC. 2. The Trustees shall choose one of their number to be President, who shall be President of the Corporation. The Trustees shall also choose the Treasurer, who shall not be a member of their own body.

SEC. 3. The Trustees shall be chosen at the meeting at which these By-Laws shall be adopted, and shall hold their places as such until the First Annual Meeting, and until others shall be chosen in their stead.

At each Annual Meeting, an election of Trustees shall be had by ballot.

All the members of the Board of Trustees shall be deemed eligible to a re-election, but not more than one half or a majority of the whole number in office shall be removed at one time.

SEC. 4. The President and Treasurer shall be chosen annually, at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after the Annual Meeting, and said meeting shall be held within ten days after the Annual Meeting.

SEC. 5. All the officers of the Corporation shall hold their respective offices until others shall be chosen.

CHAPTER II.

PRESIDENT.

SEC. 1. The President of the Corporation, shall be Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 2. He shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation, and of the Trustees, and shall perform such other duties as shall devolve upon him by the votes of either body.

CHAPTER III.

TRUSTEES.

SEC. 1. The Trustees shall have the general oversight and management of the affairs and property of the Corporation.

SEC. 2. They shall choose the President and Treasurer of the Corporation.

SEC. 3. They shall appoint all such subordinate officers as shall be by them or by the Corporation found necessary for the management of its affairs.

SEC. 4. They shall decide upon the compensation to be allowed to the officers of the Corporation, and all persons in its employ.

SEC. 5. They shall determine the amount of the bond to be given by the Treasurer and decide upon the responsibility of the sureties to be given by that officer.

SEC. 6. They shall prepare the form of the deed to be given by the Corporation to the purchasers of lots, and the form of the transfer to be made by proprietors—they shall fix upon the officer or officers who shall sign the deeds on behalf of the Corporation, and provide for a plan of registry and transfer.

SEC. 7. Should there happen a vacancy in either of the offices of President, Treasurer or Clerk, the Board of Trustees shall forthwith proceed to fill said vacancy, and the appointments thus made shall continue until the period of the Annual Election.

SEC. 8. Should a vacancy occur in the Board of Trustees it may be filled at any meeting of the Board, and the officer thus chosen shall hold his office until the next regular election of Trustees.

SEC. 9. The Trustees shall make such regulations in relation to visitors to the Cemetery as they shall think proper: they shall take such measures to preserve the grounds from injury and trespass as shall be best calculated to effect those objects; and shall designate the officer whose duty it shall be to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth enacted for the special purpose of protecting the grounds and property of Cemetery Corporations.

SEC. 10. The Trustees shall make at every Annual Meeting, a full report of the affairs of the Corporation, which report shall in all cases be read before the meeting shall proceed to the choice of Trustees, and shall be entered in full upon the records of the Corporation.

CHAPTER IV.

TREASURER.

SEC. 1. The Treasurer of the Corporation shall be appointed by the Trustees.

SEC. 2. He shall not be a member of that body.

SEC. 3. He shall give bonds with two or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the Trustees, which bond shall be kept by the President, annually examined by the Trustees, and if necessary renewed.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall, at a meeting of the Trustees to be held not less than seven days nor more than fourteen days previous to the Annual Meeting, make to that Board a detailed statement of the pecuniary operations of the Board for the preceding year, the condition of the Treasury, and of each of the funds which may have been established by the Trustees in accordance with the provisions of the grant of the ground or the By-Laws of the Corporation.

SEC. 5. The Treasurer's accounts shall be audited by a Committee of the Board of Trustees; and it shall be the duty of the auditing Committee to examine not only all the vouchers for the expenditures of the year, but all certificates of Stock and other securities in the hands of the Treasurer, and see if they compare with the statements made by him of the assets of the Corporation.

SEC. 6. All investments of the funds of the Corporation shall be made by the Treasurer under the direction and control of the Trustees, and no payment shall be made by the Treasurer unless the vouchers for such payment shall be approved by the Board of Trustees in such a manner as they shall determine.

SEC. 7. The Treasurer shall not retain in his own hands any monies belonging to the Corporation exceeding the sum of one hundred dollars, but all the funds shall be deposited in a Bank in Fairhaven to the credit of the Corporation, subject to the order of the Treasurer.

CHAPTER V.

CLERK.

SEC. 1. The Clerk is expected to perform all the duties devolving upon him by the laws of the Commonwealth, in a prompt and correct manner, and he shall cause the records of the Corporation to be neatly kept and carefully preserved.

SEC. 2. The book of records shall be handsomely and firmly bound, and lettered in an appropriate manner.

SEC. 3. The Clerk of the Corporation shall also be the Clerk of the Board of Trustees, and the records of both bodies shall be kept in the same book.

CHAPTER VI.

MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION.

SEC. 1. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held on such day during the month of March or April, as the Trustees shall fix upon.

SEC. 2. Special Meetings may be called by them at any time; and such meetings shall be called by them whenever seven members of the Corporation shall make, in writing, a request for that purpose; which request shall in all cases set forth the business to be transacted at such meeting.

SEC. 3. All meetings shall be called by the Clerk, by order of the Trustees; and the notices for the meetings shall be posted up in one or more public places in the town of Fairhaven, and

published in one or more newspapers printed in Fairhaven or New Bedford, seven days at least before the time determined upon for the meeting.

SEC. 4. In the notices for all meetings, the business to be transacted shall be plainly set forth, and no other business shall be transacted at such meetings.

SEC. 5. The President of the Corporation shall preside at all its meetings: should he be absent the oldest Trustee present shall take his place; and should there be no Trustee present, a presiding officer shall be chosen by the meeting.

SEC. 6. Not less than ten members of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but any number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum shall be assembled.

SEC. 7. All proprietors of lots shall be members of the Corporation.

SEC. 8. In deciding questions of order, the presiding officer shall in all cases be guided by the rules by which deliberative bodies are generally governed.

SEC. 9. Absent members may vote by proxy, such substitutes being duly authorised in writing.

SEC. 10. All Committees shall be appointed by the presiding officer, unless the meeting shall order otherwise.

SEC. 11. All reports of Committees shall be in writing, and shall be entered in full upon the records.

SEC. 12. At the Annual Meeting, the first business to be transacted, after the choice and qualification of a Clerk, shall be the reading of the Report of the Trustees; and no officer shall be chosen or other business transacted until said report shall be read. No action shall be taken in relation to said report, but it shall be entered in full upon the records, and open at all proper times to the examination of any member of the Corporation.

CHAPTER VII.

MEETINGS OF TRUSTEES.

SEC. 1. The Trustees shall meet as often as they shall consider necessary for the faithful performance of the duties de-

volving upon them; but in no case shall they omit to hold meetings for the choice of President and Treasurer, and for the examination of the Treasurer's accounts, or any other meetings which may be provided for by the votes or By-Laws of the Corporation.

SEC. 2. All meetings of the Trustees shall be called by the Clerk, by sending to each a written notice of the time and place, one day, at least, previous to the day of meeting.

SEC. 3. The President may call meetings of the Trustees as often as he may consider necessary, he giving notice to the Clerk in time to enable that officer to comply with the provisions of the preceding section.

SEC. 4. In the absence of the President, the oldest Trustee present shall preside.

SEC. 5. Should the Clerk be absent, the presiding officer shall name a member of the board to perform his duties.

SEC. 6. The Trustees shall determine the number which shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but no number less than a majority shall be competent to make choice of President and Treasurer or propose changes in the By-Laws of the Corporation.

SEC. 7. At the meeting for the choice of Treasurer, the bond given by that officer shall be examined, and such changes therein shall be provided for as the circumstances of the case may require.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARRANGEMENT, DIVISION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE GROUNDS, AND THE CONVEYANCE AND TRANSFER OF THE LOTS.

SEC. 1. The Trustees shall cause the Cemetery grounds to be divided into sections, and the sections into lots of a convenient and proper size and shape, the sections being appropriately designated, the lots of each section numbered, and the price of each lot affixed thereto.

SEC. 2. They shall cause a plan of the grounds to be prepared, upon which the lines of the several sections and the

number of each lot shall be accurately designated; of which plan, one copy shall be in the hands of the Clerk, and another in the care of the person having the immediate superintendence of the grounds, both being accessible to all persons interested, at all proper times.

Sec. 3. Application for the purchase of lots may be made to the Trustees or such person as they shall appoint to attend to the duty of attending to the same, and when a purchase shall have been made, a certificate of the fact shall be signed by the person by whom it shall be made, which shall be taken to the Treasurer to whom the price of the lot shall be paid, who shall thereupon give the purchaser a deed of the lot.

Sec. 4. The deeds given by the Corporation to purchasers of lots shall be prepared in such a form as shall be determined upon by the Board of Trustees, and shall be executed in such manner as they shall think proper.

Sec. 5. All such deeds shall, on the description of the lot conveyed, refer to the plan of the grounds before mentioned.

Sec. 6. All deeds given by the Corporation to purchasers of lots, shall, in addition to all other necessary covenants and stipulations, contain the following conditions and limitations, to wit:

First. That the said lot shall not be used for any other purpose than as a place of burial for the dead: and no trees within the lot, or border, shall be cut down, trimmed, or destroyed, without the consent of the Trustees of the said Corporation.

Second. That the proprietor of the said lot shall have the right to erect stones, monuments, or sepulchral structures, and, to cultivate trees, shrubs and plants, in the same.

Third. The proprietor of the said lot of land shall erect thereon, at his, or her own expense, a monument of stone, to be provided by the Trustees, with the number thereof legibly and permanently marked thereon. And if the proprietor shall omit, for thirty days after notice, to erect such monument and mark the number, the Trustees shall have authority to cause the same to be done at the expense of the said proprietor.

Fourth. That if any trees or shrubs situated in said lot of land shall by means of their roots, branches, or otherwise, be-

come detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues, or dangerous or inconvenient to passengers, it shall be the duty of the Trustees for the time being, and they shall have the right to enter into the said lot and remove the said trees and shrubs, or such parts thereof as are thus detrimental, dangerous or inconvenient.

Fifth. That if any monument, or effigy, or any structure whatever, or any inscription be placed in or upon the said land, which shall be determined by the major part of the Trustees for the time being, to be offensive or improper, the said Trustees, or a major part of them, shall have the right and it shall be their duty, to enter upon said land, and remove the said offensive or improper object or objects.

Sixth. No fence shall be placed or erected in or around the said lot the materials and design of which shall not be first approved by the Trustees, or a Committee of that Board.

Seventh. No tomb shall be constructed within the bounds of the Cemetery, except in or upon the lots situated in such parts of the grounds as shall be designated by the Trustees for that purpose; and no proprietor shall suffer the remains of any person to be deposited in a tomb so authorized, *for hire.*

Eighth. The proprietor of said lot shall at all times keep the same neat, and clear from weeds; and shall at suitable seasons clear off the grass which may grow upon the same; and in case he neglects so to do, the Trustees or their agent, may enter upon and clear the said lot, and remove the grass at the expense of the proprietor.

Ninth. The said lot of land shall be holden subject to the provisions contained in the By-Laws of the Corporation now in force or which may be hereafter established.

Sec. 7. Every original deed shall be recorded by the Clerk in a book kept for that purpose, and when the ownership shall be changed by sale or otherwise, an entry of the transfer shall be made by the Clerk. The Clerk shall be entitled to receive the same fees for such record as are by law allowed to Registers of Deeds.

Sec. 8. The Trustees may lay out and enclose lots for single interments, and establish a price for the same, and they may

permit the interment of any person on such a lot without payment therefor.

SEC. 9. In the receiving tomb which may be erected for the general use of the proprietors, the body of any person for whose interment in the Cemetery the right has been secured may be placed when such a course shall be deemed necessary or expedient, but no body shall be allowed to remain in said tomb more than six months.

SEC. 10. No person holding a lot by transfer, shall be considered a member of the Corporation or entitled to any of its privileges, unless said transfer shall have been regularly recorded in the books of the Corporation.

CHAPTER IX.

AMENDMENTS.

SEC. 1. All propositions for amendments to the By-Laws of the Corporation shall originate with the Board of Trustees. If approved by the votes of three-fourths of the members of the Board, present and voting, they shall be presented for the action of the Corporation at the next meeting of that body.

APPENDIX.

"River-Side Cemetery,"

Notice of the intention to consecrate "River-Side Cemetery," by Public Services, was published in the New Bedford Mercury a few days previous to the time appointed. A more appropriate time could not have been selected for the services, and a large company gathered on the ground at an early hour of the Sabbath evening, July 7, 1850. The day was favorable, and the summer air tempered by the agreeable coolness of approaching twilight. A platform was erected for the speakers, and was placed on the higher part of the rising ground which commanded a view of the river, and the surrounding country.

The services commenced with a Chant by a select Choir, composed of volunteers from the various Societies, under the direction of Mr. Sylvanus Allen.

The Hon. Ezekiel Sawin, of the Committee of Arrangements, then read the following

ADDRESS.

CITIZENS AND FRIENDS:

We have assembled here, on this Holy day, for the purpose of dedicating this beautiful spot of ground to the use, for which it was intended by the Donor.

These grounds, (containing about fourteen acres, and originally a part of the Jonathan Nye farm,) were purchased, in the winter of 1846–'7, by WARREN DELANO, JR., Esq., of New York. In the spring following, preparations were made for fitting them as an appropriate Burial place: from that time to this, under the direction of persons employed by Mr. DELANO, the work of preparing and embellishing has been going forward.

If the purchase money be included in our estimate, then Mr. DELANO has expended on these grounds upwards of eight thousand dollars.

Notwithstanding such expenditure he, the last spring, munificently *gave* a deed of them to a number of persons who should act as Trustees, divide the field into lots, and sell them to whomsoever wished to buy. The proceeds of these sales, he directed should be exclusively applied to the future care and further embellishment of the grounds.

The Trustees at once took the necessary steps toward forming themselves into a corporate body, and at Mr. DELANO's suggestion gave to this place the name of

RIVER–SIDE CEMETERY.

We are now assembled to dedicate the gift, by solemn forms, to its sacred uses, and agreeably to the wishes of the generous Donor.

We comprehend those wishes; and we sympathise with him when thus anticipating his own final want. We understand his desire to secure a Resting Place before he is called to sleep with his kindred; and we know why he chooses that place to be here—within the limits of his native town.

"Deal kindly and truly with me," said the dying Patriarch to his attentive son—"Bury me not, I pray thee in Egypt. But I will lie with my Fathers: and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt and bury me in *their* burying place."

Our hearts, my friends, respond to the answer of that noble son—"*I will* DO *as thou hast said.*"

At the conclusion of the Address, selections from the Scriptures were read by the Rev. S. C. BROWN, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The following Hymn, written for the occasion by J. B. CONGDON, Esq., was then sung.

At the holy Sabbath's close,
Midst the evening hour's repose,
On the hill with verdure crowned,
Nature's loveliest charms around;

We have met, and on the air
Raise the solemn hymn and prayer;
Clothe with faith and holy fear,
Every waiting spirit here.

Father! while thy children bow
Reverently before Thee now,
Bend to us Thy willing ear,
Deign our humble prayer to hear.

Give us at this quiet hour,
Hearts submissive to thy power,
Pious trust and holy peace,
From the cares of earth release.

All with one accord unite,
Solemn thought and holy rite,
While this hallowed ground we tread
Henceforth, sacred to the Dead.

When affection lingering here,
Sheds bereavement's bitter tear,
When the broken hearted come,
Weeping o'er the loved-one's tomb;

Father! to the stricken heart,
Peace and hope and faith impart;
Give the troubled spirit rest;
Let the mourner here be blest.

From the Saviour's riven tomb,
May the light their souls illume,
In its brightness may they see
Life and immortality.

The Address by the Rev. THOMAS DAWES, will be found in the preceding pages. It was listened to by an audience of about fifteen hundred people with the most undivided attention.

At the conclusion of the Address, the prayer of Consecration was offered up by the Rev. JACOB ROBERTS, of the First Congregational Society.

The beautiful Hymn, "I would not live alway," was then sung by the Choir, and the assembly dismissed by a Benediction from the Rev. J. B. WEEKS, of the Methodist Church.

The performances of the Choir, added much to the interest and profitableness of the occasion. A Seraphine, provided through the kindness of John Hopkins, Esq., of New Bedford, and played by Miss Graupner, assisted the Choir.

The following are the names of the individuals who composed the Choir.

First Treble—Mrs. Sylvanus Allen, Miss Sarah T. Shaw, Miss Adeline L. Grinnell.

Second Treble—Mrs. J. T. Buttrick, Miss Maria Shaw, Miss Cynthia Nye.

Tenor—Mr. Sylvanus Allen, Mr. Dean.

Bass—Mr. George F. Wing, Mr. Charles Taber, Mr. Job C. Tripp.

OFFICERS OF THE RIVER-SIDE CEMETERY.

PRESIDENT,

WARREN DELANO.

TRUSTEES,

WARREN DELANO, JR.
JOSEPH C. DELANO,
FRANCIS S. HATHAWAY,
EBEN'R. AKIN, JR.
GIDEON NYE,
ISAIAH F. TERRY,
JOHN A. HAWES,
NATHANIEL CHURCH,
J. B. CONGDON,
EZEKIEL SAWIN,
LEMUEL C. TRIPP,
CHARLES ELDREDGE,
T. D. ELIOT,
WM. P. JENNEY,
HENRY A. CHURCH.

CLERK AND TREASURER,

REUBEN NYE.

ERRATA TO MR. DAWES' ADDRESS.

The Reader will please make the following corrections:

3d page, 1st line, for "*partial*," read parting.

5th page, 2d line, for "adorer," read adorner.

7th page, 4th line, for "*shall*," read shalt.

14th page, 10th line, for "wise disposer," read Wise Disposer.

14th page, 12th line, for the parenthesis substitute,—(ah! some who wear them *now*.)